

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Madeleine Clayton 01/29/2001
Departmental Forms Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6086
Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 10/18/2000.

TITLE: Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED

OMB NO.: 0648-0040

EXPIRATION DATE: 01/31/2004

BURDEN	RESPONSES	BURDEN HOURS	BURDEN COSTS
Previous	935	315	0
New	1,550	390	1
Difference	615	75	1
Program Change		0	1
Adjustment		75	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

The agency may comply with the requirements to display OMB control number by including it in a cover letter rather than on the form itself.

NOTE: The agency is required to display the OMB control number and inform respondents of its legal significance (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by ____ / ____ / ____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated 5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: ____ / ____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator or head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or Staff Office)	
Signature	Date
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature	Date

**Supporting statement for
BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT
OMB Control Number 0648-0040
Renewal of Collection**

Section A. Justification

1. Need for the Information

This Supporting Statement is submitted as part of a PRA request to renew the information collection approval for the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BSD). Under this request, the information collection approval for the BSD would be extended. A BSD is required for all bluefin tuna dealers as a condition for the import or export of fresh or frozen bluefin tuna shipments into or from the United States. This requirement has been implemented under the provisions of a recommendation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to track imports of bluefin tuna to ICCAT-member countries (Attachment 1).

The purpose of the collection of this information is to comply with the U.S. obligations under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (ATCA; 16 U.S.C. 971) and 50 CFR part 635. ATCA requires the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to promulgate regulations adopted by ICCAT. The authority to issue these regulations has been delegated from the Secretary to the Assistant Administration for Fisheries, NOAA. Section 971 d.(c)(3) of ATCA provides the statutory authority to require the collection of information necessary to implement the recommendations of ICCAT.

Pursuant to the 1992 ICCAT recommendation and the implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 635, action is needed to document bluefin tuna shipments that are imported into or exported from the United States. NMFS regulations (Attachment 2) require a BSD as a condition for the import or export of fresh or frozen Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna shipments into or from the United States. These requirements augment NMFS's ability to quantify all bluefin tuna that enter into commerce of the United States.

NMFS regulations also require that if imported bluefin tuna are tagged, the tag must remain on the carcass until it is cut into portions for domestic commercial use or export. In addition, dealers are required to retain copies of completed BSDs for a period of two years from the date the required original documents or copies are submitted to NMFS. Institutions, or associations seeking authorization to validate BSDs accompanying exports from the United States, must apply in writing to NMFS.

The ICCAT recommendations take into account several considerations that include: (1) A significant number of vessels fishing for bluefin tuna that are registered to nations not affiliated with ICCAT; (2) the statistical and scientific problems created by catches of bluefin tuna by non-ICCAT member nations;

and (3) the great difficulty these nations have in providing information on the catches by vessels under their flag. Also, the ICCAT recommendations take into account the stringent ICCAT management regime for the stock and recognize that it is essential to improve the reliability of statistical information on worldwide removals of bluefin tuna. Ultimately, to better quantify worldwide catches of bluefin tuna, the measure is expected to account for all fresh and frozen shipments of bluefin tuna by both Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties.

2. Uses and Users of the Information

Pacific and Atlantic bluefin tuna identified by item numbers from the Harmonized Tariff Schedule need to be accompanied by an approved BSD upon import into the United States or upon export or re-export from the United States. A BSD is considered completed and approved for import, export or re-export if it is identified by a number assigned by the issuing government and has all of the required information recorded and, if applicable, is validated. The U.S. BSD (Attachment 3) can be obtained from NMFS to accompany exports of Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna from the United States. Imports to the United States must be accompanied by BSDs issued by the flag country of the harvesting vessel. U.S. dealers should notify counterpart exporters in foreign countries of these requirements. If needed, foreign exporters may obtain unnumbered BSDs from NMFS to accompany exports of bluefin tuna to the United States; a document number must be assigned by the country issuing the BSD. U.S. importers are required to complete the import section of the foreign BSD.

The following information is required on all BSDs:

- (1) The name of the country (flag country) of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment and issued the BSD. According to the ICCAT Recommendation, only the flag state of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment can issue the BSD.
- (2) The name and registration number (if available) of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment.
- (3) If applicable, the name of the owner of the trap that harvested the bluefin tuna.
- (4) The point of export--the city and state or province, and country from which the bluefin tuna was exported.
- (5) Description of fish--specific information about the shipment (one fish per line)--
 - (a) The product type (Fresh or Frozen) and product form (Round, Gilled & Gutted, Dressed, Fillet, or Other). For Other, the type of product must be described.
 - (b) The gear code describing the gear type used to harvest the bluefin tuna. Codes are listed on Instruction Sheet.
 - (c) The area of catch--the general area of ocean in which the bluefin tuna product was harvested (i.e. east Atlantic, west Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Mediterranean, Pacific).
 - (d) The net weight--net product weight in kilograms.
 - (e) The tag number, if applicable, affixed to each fish.
- (6) The name, address, signature, and dealer license number (if applicable) of the exporter, and the date the shipment was exported.

(7) The name, title, and signature of the official validating the BSD. The official must be employed by a competent authority of the flag state government of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna appearing on the BSD. When appropriate, this requirement is waived according to the ICCAT resolution concerning validation of the BSD by a government official.

(8) The name, address, signature, and license number (if applicable) of the importer of the bluefin tuna, the date the bluefin was imported, and the final point of import (city and state or province, and country). This includes imports into intermediate countries. For fresh and chilled products, signature of the importer may be substituted by person of a custom clearance company when the authority of signature is properly accredited to the company by the importer.

Validation of a BSD by a government official is not required for Atlantic or Pacific bluefin tuna imported into the United States in other than frozen bulk shipments if NMFS determines that the country where the bluefin tuna is being exported from has an accepted ICCAT logbook or information retrieval system.

If this information collection were not conducted, the United States would fall into a status of non-compliance with its international obligations under ICCAT, in violation of the ATCA.

3. Use of Improved Information Technology

This collection of information does not involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques. Because fishery products are often transhipped, or processed in intermediate countries and re-exported, there is a need for a "hard copy" document to establish the chain of custody from the harvesting vessel to the country of final destination (import for consumption).

4. Consideration of Other Collections

Coordination with existing programs is always explored to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. BSDs must accompany export shipments and duplication of certain elements of dealer reports, e.g., date of landing, vessel tag number, etc., is unavoidable. However, the additional burden is minimal, because the information has been assembled for other reports and is readily available.

5. Impact and Problems for Small Businesses

Small businesses will be the respondents of this data collection. The information requested is presented in a format that is compatible with the dealer operation of landing, purchasing, and processing of Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna. This consistency will minimize the compliance burden. Thus, there is no significant impact on small entities.

6. Consideration of Less Frequent Reporting

Under the agreement by ICCAT contracting parties, each shipment of bluefin tuna requires a BSD or imports will be denied. Bluefin tuna dealers benefit by being assured access to the Japanese market.

7. Consistency with OMB Guidelines

More frequent reporting is required for the same reasons stated in #6 above. Consistent with the last renewal of OMB approval for the BSD forms, it is requested that the burden statement and expiration date not appear on the BSD form, but be provided in a cover letter to U.S. tuna dealers and importers. The OMB approval number will be printed on the form.

The reason for this request stems from concerns expressed by other ICCAT parties that the U.S. BSD differs from the format agreed to at the conference of parties. Initially, NMFS had proposed to implement the BSD through the existing NOAA Form 370 - Fisheries Certificate of Origin. NMFS received comments from other contracting parties that such a combined form was unacceptable and would undermine the BSD program due to extraneous information requirements. U.S. tuna dealers also commented that the combined form was confusing and might result in delays in clearing foreign customs.

In its final rule, NMFS adopted a separate form for the BSD and made modifications to ICCAT model to include the burden statement and expiration. After printing and distributing the forms, NMFS was contacted by Japanese trade representatives who commented that the U.S. form was not acceptable for several reasons: the ICCAT form had 10 lines for entry of fish information while the U.S. form had 4; the U.S. form did not have a map on the reverse side indicating the ocean areas of catch; and some information was extraneous to program requirements. NMFS redesigned the form to address the expressed format concerns and redistributed forms to dealers.

NMFS had received comments from U.S. dealers and importers in Japan regarding the expiration date of August 31, 1997 printed on the BSD forms. Due to the confusion the PRA information presents to foreign dealers and customs officials, in the renewal package submitted in 1997, NMFS proposed to provide this information in a cover letter so that the form will match the generic form adopted by ICCAT. Because NMFS directly issues uniquely numbered BSD forms to individual dealers, and these numbered forms are not transferable, all dealers receive a cover letter with instructions, approval number, expiration date and the burden statement. This will meet NMFS obligations under the PRA while reducing the likelihood of delays/problems in clearing customs in countries that are contracting parties to ICCAT.

8. Consultations

The Northeast Regional office maintains daily contact with the affected parties during the fishing season. The BSD was presented to the general constituency during scoping meetings held in preparation of the 1993 tuna rule. These meetings were held in Portland, ME on October 26, 1992, Ronkonkoma, NY on October 28, 1992, Tom's River, NJ on October 29, 1992, Norfolk, VA on November 11, 1992, and Panama City, FL on November 6, 1992. In general, participants agreed that a BSD is needed to track non-ICCAT catches and help monitor quotas. Consultations with individual dealers took place on July 28, 1993. The dealers consulted were in agreement that a BSD is needed. In addition, NMFS

recently published a notice in the Federal Register (65 FR 21399, April 21, 2000) to invite public comment on extending this collection of information. No comments were received in response to this notice.

9. Payments or Gifts to Respondents

No payments or gifts are to be offered as part of this information collection.

10. Confidentiality

All data submitted under this collection will be confidential in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. It is Agency policy not to release confidential data, other than in aggregate form, as the Magnuson-Stevens Act protects (in perpetuity) the confidentiality of those submitting data. Whenever data are requested, the Agency ensures that information identifying the pecuniary business activity of a particular dealer is not identified.

11. Sensitive Questions

No information of a sensitive nature is requested in this collection of information.

12. Estimated Information Collection Burden

It is estimated that approximately 500 permitted Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna dealers are required to complete about 1,550 BSDs. Of those permitted, only about 50 actually imported, exported, or re-exported bluefin tuna (which would require completion of a BSD). Therefore, the average dealer required to report would be required to complete about 31 responses. The average response time for domestic BSD completion is estimated to be 5 minutes, since the necessary information is readily transferred from dealer cards. However, because completion of foreign BSDs may require government validation, response time may be greater. NMFS also estimates that, on average, 10 respondents will need to obtain a total of 130 government validations, at 2 hours per validation request. NOAA expects no requests from organizations for authority to provide certifications (only one request has been received since the start of the program).

Therefore, the total annual response time for completion of BSDs is estimated to be:

$$(1,550 \text{ BSDs} \times 5 \text{ min.}) + 130 \text{ requests for validation} \times 2 \text{ hrs/request} = 389.2 \text{ hrs}$$

13. Annual Costs

As outlined in #12 above, it is estimated that 50 Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna dealers are required to complete about 1,550 BSDs annually. The estimated time per response is 5 minutes per form for a total annual burden of 1,550 x 5 minutes, plus 130 requests for government validation at 2 hrs/request,

for a total of 389.2 hours. The estimated cost per response \$0.33 for postage a total annual cost of $1,550 \times \$0.33 = \511.50 , although copies of BSDs may be faxed at a lower cost.

14. Annual Cost to the Federal Government

The annual cost is estimated at \$200 for printing and distributing forms/cover letters. Incremental costs will be incurred for data entry, storage and analysis but NMFS will draw on existing personnel and computing resources.

15. Program Changes or Adjustments

There are no program changes. The burden change is an adjustment resulting from a more accurate estimate of response times and an updated estimated number of respondents. Previously the response times had been averaged between times for exports and for imports that require validation, which produced an inaccurate number. The two response times are now individually specified.

16. Time Schedule for Tabulation, Publication and Other Actions

NMFS will provide semi-annual reports on imports, exports, and re-exports of both Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna to ICCAT.

17. Display of Expiration Date for OMB Approval

NMFS requests an exception to this requirement (see item #7 above).

18. Exceptions to Certification in Item 19 of OMB 83-I.

The burden estimate and expiration date will not be displayed on the BSD form, but will be transmitted to tuna dealers in a cover letter that will be distributed with the forms (see item #7 above).

Section B. Collections Employing Statistical Methods

This information collection does not employ statistical methods such as sampling.

Attachments:

- 1 - List of ICCAT member nations
- 2 - Regulations regarding BSDs (50 CFR Part 635, sections 42, 43 and 44)
- 3 - U.S. BSD and draft cover letter
- 4 - Request for comment on proposed collection (65 FR 21399, April 21, 2000)

ICCAT Member Nations

1. Angola
2. Brazil
3. Canada
4. Cape Verde
5. China (PRC)
6. EC
7. Cote d'Ivoire
8. Croatia
9. France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
10. Gabon
11. Ghana
12. Equatorial Guinea
13. Republic of Guinea
14. Japan
15. Korea (Republic of)
16. Libya
17. Morocco
18. Namibia
19. Panama
20. Russian Federation
21. Sao Tome e Principe
22. South Africa
23. Trinidad and Tobago
24. Tunisia
25. UK (in respect of its overseas territories)
26. USA
27. Uruguay
28. Venezuela

Dear Bluefin Tuna Dealers:

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations require a completed, approved Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BSD) as a condition for lawful import, export, or re-export of Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna into or from the customs territory of the United States. These regulations are necessary to comply with the recommendation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Dealers importing bluefin tuna, or purchasing or receiving for export bluefin tuna first landed in the United States are required to possess a valid bluefin tuna dealer permit and comply with all applicable recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

Allotments of BSDs that you may use to export shipments of Atlantic or Pacific bluefin tuna are enclosed. Atlantic bluefin tuna dealers may obtain BSDs, permit applications, tail tags, and reporting forms from the Administrator, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-3799. Pacific bluefin tuna dealers may obtain these items from the Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

Documentation requirements: A BSD is considered completed and approved for import, export or re-export if it is identified by a number assigned by the issuing government and has all of the required information recorded and, if applicable, is validated.

Imports: Importers must record on the BSD accompanying imported bluefin tuna the applicable Entry Number appearing on U.S. Customs Form 7501 (Entry Summary) or such entry number transmitted through the Automated Broker Interface, as applicable. If the United States is the final destination of the imported bluefin tuna shipment, the original BSD must be mailed to the Regional Director within 24 hours of the time the tuna was imported into the United States. If the United States is the intermediate destination of the bluefin tuna shipment, a copy of the original BSD must be mailed to the Regional Administrator within 24 hours of the time the tuna was imported and the original document must accompany the shipment to its final destination. If imported bluefin tuna are tagged, the tag must remain on the carcass until it is cut into portions for domestic commercial use or export. In such case, the tag number and country issuing the BSD must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of the package.

Export or re-export: For fish first landed in the United States by U.S. flag vessels, enter completely elements (1) through (7) only on those numbered BSDs issued to you as a permitted bluefin dealer.

For export of fish previously imported into the United States, enter on the original document accompanying the shipment the name, address, license number, signature and date of the intermediate country importer and the name of the city and state of through transportation. In case of export or re-export, the original document must accompany the shipment to its final destination. A copy of the document must be mailed to the Regional Administrator within 24 hours of the time the tuna was exported.

Reporting and recordkeeping: Allotments of numbered BSDs will be assigned to all federally licensed bluefin tuna dealers. As needed, additional forms may be obtained by contacting the Regional Administrator. BSDs are not transferable, nor are they reusable. Numbered documents may be used only once to report on specific export shipments from the United States. Imports to the United States must be accompanied by BSDs issued by the flag country of the harvesting vessel. U.S. dealers should notify counterpart exporters in foreign countries of these requirements. If needed, foreign exporters may obtain unnumbered BSDs from the Regional Administrator to accompany exports of bluefin tuna to the United States. Dealers must retain copies of completed BSDs for a period of two years from the date the required original documents or copies are submitted to the Regional Director.

Validation Requirements: Shipments of bluefin tuna imported into the United States must be accompanied by a foreign-government validated BSD unless the Assistant Administrator waives the government validation requirement. The Assistant Administrator shall furnish a list of the countries for which waiver of government validation requirements apply. Bluefin tuna shipments exported from the United States shall be exempt from the government validation requirement if the shipments are: (1) identified via bluefin tuna tail tags; or (2) the document is validated by an authorized non-government official. Officials of trade associations may obtain authorization for validating BSDs by contacting the Regional Director.

Penalties: The importer of record of bluefin tuna shipments offered for entry into the United States without original, complete, approved documentation shall be subject to civil and criminal penalties and forfeiture provisions. The importer of record remains liable for any expenses incurred in the storage and/or disposal of bluefin tuna seized or refused entry.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget Control Number. NMFS has received an exemption from the display requirement for the expiration date because the BSD is used in international commerce and questions have been raised by customs officials and dealers in other ICCAT member countries. By this cover letter, dealers are notified that this information

collection is approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0648-0040 and expires on **(insert date)**. Note however, that the ICCAT requirements for the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program do not expire on that date and NMFS will seek renewal from OMB prior to the expiration.

Confidential business information will not be released, other than in aggregate form. Whenever data are requested or reports are produced, NMFS ensures that information identifying the pecuniary business activity of a particular dealer is not identified.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

This letter is meant to summarize the regulations pertaining to the BSD. If you have questions concerning the use of the BSD, please contact Mark Murray-Brown at (978) 281-9260 or Pat Donley at (310) 980-4033.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. Rogers, Acting Chief,
Highly Migratory Species Management
Division, Office of Sustainable
Fisheries

Enclosures

ICCAT BLUEFIN STATISTICAL DOCUMENT INSTRUCTION SHEET

Pursuant to the 1992 ICCAT recommendation, bluefin tuna imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or upon first entry into a regional economic organization must be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BSD) beginning June 1, 1994. Tuna dealers who export or import bluefin will be required to complete the appropriate sections of the BSD. Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of bluefin tuna will be allowed to enter the customs territory of Contracting Parties (e.g., Japan, Canada, U.S., Spain, etc.). Improperly documented bluefin tuna shipments (i.e., the BSD is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate and contrary to ICCAT conservation efforts. Entry of improperly documented bluefin tuna will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) into the customs territory of a Contracting Party or subject to administrative or other sanctions.

Please use the instructions below as a guide to complete the sections that apply to Exporters, Importers, and Government Validation. If a language other than English is used for description, please add an English translation either on the BSD or on a separate paper. Note: if a bluefin tuna product is exported directly from the harvesting country to a contracting party, without going through an intermediate country, all fish can be identified on one document. However, if the bluefin tuna product is exported through an intermediate country (i.e., a country other than the country which is the final destination of the product), separate documents must be prepared for fish destined for different final destinations, or only one fish may be identified on a document to cope with any possible separation in an intermediate country. Import of bluefin tuna parts other than meat (i.e., heads, eyes, roe, guts, tails) may be allowed entry without an accompanying BSD.

DOCUMENT NUMBER: This block is for the issuing Country to designate a country coded Document Number.

(1) **FLAG COUNTRY** - Fill in the name of the country of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment and issued this Document. According to the ICCAT Recommendation, only the flag state of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment can issue this Document.

(2) **NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER** - Fill in the name and registration number (if available) of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment.

(3) **TRAPS** - If applicable, fill in the name of the owner of the trap that harvested the bluefin tuna.

(4) **POINT OF EXPORT** - Identify the city and state or province, and country from which the bluefin tuna was exported.

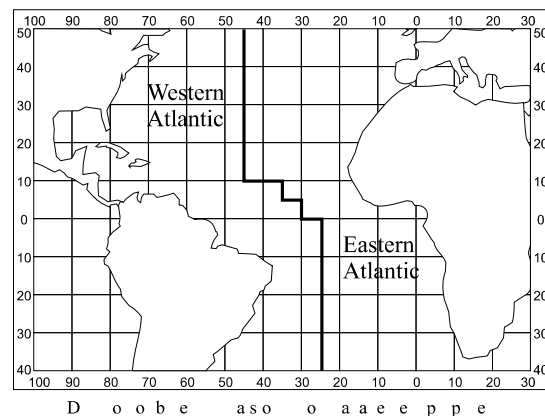
(5) **DESCRIPTION OF FISH** - The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information. (NOTE: One row should describe one product type.) (1) Product type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment; (2) Gear Code - Identify the gear type which was used to harvest the bluefin tuna using the listed codes; (3) Area of Catch - Identify the general area of ocean in which the bluefin tuna product was harvested (i.e., east Atlantic, west Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Mediterranean, Pacific); (4) Net weight - Net product weight in kilograms.; (5) Tag Number - If applicable, list the country coded tag number affixed to each fish.

(6) **EXPORTER CERTIFICATION** - The person or company exporting the bluefin tuna shipment must provide his/her name, signature, address, date the shipment was exported, and dealer license number (if applicable).

(7) **GOVERNMENT VALIDATION** - Fill in name and full title of the official signing the BSD. The official must be employed by a competent authority of the flag state government of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna appearing on the BSD. When appropriate, this requirement is waived according to the ICCAT resolution concerning validation of the BSD by a government official.

(8) **IMPORTER CERTIFICATION** - The person or company that imports bluefin tuna must provide their name, signature, address, date the bluefin was imported, license number (if applicable) and final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate countries. For fresh and chilled products, signature of the importer may be substituted by person of a custom clearance company when the authority of signature is properly accredited to the company by the importer.

GEAR CODE	GEAR TYPE
BB	BAITBOAT
GILL	GILLNET
HAND	HANDLINE
HARP	HARPOON
LL	LONGLINE
MWT	MID-WATER TRAWL
PS	PURSE SEINE
RR	ROD AND REEL
SPHL	SPORT HANDLINE
SPOR	SPORT FISHERIES, UNCLASSIFIED
SURF	SURFACE FISHERIES, UNCLASSIFIED
TL	TENDED LINE
TRAP	TRAP
TROL	TROLL
UNCL	UNSPECIFIED METHODS
OT	OTHER TYPE-DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF GEAR



Original completed document must accompany exported shipment. Retain a copy for your records. The original (imports) or a copy (exports) must be postmarked and mailed, or faxed, within 24 hours of import or export to: NMFS, NE Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 [FAX 508-281-9340] or NMFS, SW Regional Office, 501 W. Ocean Blvd. #4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 [FAX 310-980-4047]. This form is approved under OMB information collection number 0648-0040.

DOCUMENT NUMBER US	ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT
------------------------------	--

EXPORT SECTION

1. FLAG COUNTRY : **United States of America**

2. NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION # : _____

3. TRAPS (If applicable, indicate trap owner) : _____

4. POINT OF EXPORT:
 CITY _____ STATE OR PROVINCE _____ COUNTRY _____

5. DESCRIPTION OF FISH (One fish per line)

Product Type ^a F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	Gear Code ^b	Area of Catch ^c	Net Weight (kg)	Tag Number (if applicable)

^a F= Fresh, FR= Frozen, RD= Round, GG= Gilled & Gutted, DR= Dressed, FL= Fillet, OT= Others (Describe the type: _____)
^b When the Gear Code is OT, describe the type of gear: _____
^c Ocean area (e.g., east Atlantic, west Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Mediterranean, Pacific) _____

6. EXPORTER CERTIFICATION I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name	Address	Signature	Date	License Number (if applicable)

7. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION I validate that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name & Title	Signature	Date	Government Seal

IMPORT SECTION

IMPORTER CERTIFICATION I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Importer Certification (Intermediate Country)				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #

Importer Certification (Intermediate Country)				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #

Importer Certification (Final Destination of Shipment)				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #

Final Point of Import - City: _____ **State or Province:** _____ **Country** _____

If a language other than English is used for completing this document, please add an English translation on this document or on a separate paper.

